

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Miranda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miranda, Smisek, Smith,  
Stadler, Strehler, and Chairperson Wang.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Myers,  
Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland,  
Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson, and  
Cultural Services Consultant Powers.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stadler moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Wang so ordered.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2005**

Chairperson Wang noted the following correction to the December 19, 2005 meeting minutes:

Page 5, Item 10, paragraph 9: "...and the University of Southern California talent show on December 18, 2005."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Smith moved for the approval of the December 19, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stadler and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

**5B. MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2006**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Smith moved for the approval of the January 23, 2006 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strehler and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6A. 2006 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS**

Cultural Services Manager Myers reported that there would be excellent representation from elected officials, including Mayor Walker, at the 2006 Excellence in Arts Award ceremony on Sunday, April 30, 2006. He requested that Commissioners submit nominations as well as encourage friends and people in the art world to attend the event. He requested that the March 9, 2006 deadline for submitting nominations be extended to March 15, 2006.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stadler moved to extend the deadline for submitting a nomination for an Excellence in Arts award to March 15, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Cultural Services Manager Myers advised that each committee should meet and submit a recommendation in the category they are reviewing at the March 20, 2006 Commission meeting.

**6B. 2006 NON PROFIT ARTS GRANT UPDATE**

Cultural Services Manager Myers reported that grant applications and information were available at <http://www.tprd.toronet.com> and that selection of recipients would take place at the May 15, 2006 Commission meeting.

Responding to Commissioner Miranda's inquiry, he explained that applicants did not have to live in the City but were required to have a significant impact on citizens of Torrance.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7A. SMITHSONIAN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN PRESENTATION**

Commissioner Miranda introduced the item and welcomed Joel Jacinto, Executive Director of SIPA (Search to Involve Pilipino Americans).

With the aid of a power point presentation, Mr. Jacinto provided an overview of the upcoming Filipino American Centennial Commemoration Celebration with "100 Years of Filipinos In America," in partnership with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program. He stated that the national theme was "A Century of Challenge and Change" and the local theme is "A Treasured Past. The Future Embraced." He discussed programs, exhibitions, and events to educate the public about the Filipino experience that include a national touring exhibition of historical photographs, major waves of migration beginning in 1906, and programs on the labor movement, contemporary issues, involvement in the military, and artists and literature. He described public education outreach that includes curriculum development, a documentary film entitled "Sandaan," and a website. He distributed information about upcoming local events that include a video screening and speaker panel on March 31, 2006 at Glendale Central Library and "Sakadas & Beyond: Connecting Our Past to Inspire the Future" on June 16, 2006 in Los Angeles.

In response to Commissioner Armstrong's inquiry, he explained that the Philippines was a Southeast Asian nation, closely related to Indonesia, Burma, and Thailand. He noted that October was Filipino American history month and that approximately 3% of Torrance are Filipino Americans.

Responding to Commissioner Miranda's inquiry, Cultural Services Manager Myers explained that the Commission could make a recommendation to City Council to adopt a resolution.

**8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS**

Previously discussed.

**8B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN**

Commissioner Armstrong volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Community Cultural Plan Committee.

**8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

No report.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland welcomed Commissioner Miranda and distributed 2006 Torrance Theatre Company season brochures, noting that "Biloxi Blues" will begin on March 10, 2006 in the Nakano Theatre. He encouraged Commissioners to attend Torrance Civic Chorale's "A Musical Salute to Living Composers and Arrangers" on April 8, 2006 in the Armstrong Theatre. He stated that the Visual Performing Arts Guide and Summer Seasons are being finalized and discussed the popularity of Starlight youth theater productions.

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported on the current exhibition in the Torrance Art Museum, noting that March 2, 2006 will be both the last Stories in Art storytelling and art workshop and the first Starters program featuring Sean Wiggins. She stated that attendance at the Museum for the current exhibition has averaged 87 people and that preparations are underway for the next exhibition beginning March 25, 2006.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers distributed the 2005 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ooodles of Noodles Program Report, noting the increase of high school volunteers. He announced that the next Ooodles of Noodles will be on Sunday, June 4, 2006 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

He reported on Works in Progress and the success of the first segment "9/11 Commission Report – 1998" on February 22, 2006. He discussed his "Meet the Author" program in the Library as well as press coverage in the Daily Breeze and Easy Reader.

Responding to Commissioner Armstrong's inquiry, he explained that the four segments dramatize the key characters and events documented by the U.S. government's investigation. He noted that the production serves as a valuable community serving experience because most people have not read the Commission Report.

In response to Commissioner Smisek's inquiry, he advised that the programs will be aired on Channel 3 later this year.

Dr. Owen Griffith invited Commissioners to attend the March 11, 2006 Torrance Symphony's concert in the Armstrong Theatre and the August 27, 2006 Concert in the Park at Wilson Park. He discussed the February 18, 2006 fundraiser featuring Big Band Express.

Commissioner Armstrong mentioned that she was interested in nominating composer Kentaro Sato for an Excellence in Arts award.

Alex See, Torrance Chinese School, invited Commissioners to attend South Bay Community Children's Chorus' March 26, 2006 "Dance for Spring" in the Armstrong Theatre.

## **10. ORALS**

Commissioner Smisek discussed upcoming Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation programming that includes the Peanut Gallery's Jambo Watoto, Tales and Rhythms of Africa, on March 11, The Irish Descendents on March 18, and Frank Potenza on March 24, 2006.

Commissioner Smith stated that she enjoyed the lecture by Spike Lee on February 11, 2006 as well as an acoustic guitar performance by her son, Justin Smith, on February 24, 2006.

Commissioner Stadler stated that her chorus group would be performing at the Hermosa Beach Women's Club on March 8, 2006.

Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed a Peninsula Symphony concert on February 26, 2006.

Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed the Judson lecture, Big Band Express, and the "9/11 Commission Report – 1998."

Chairperson Wang stated that she enjoyed speaker Spike Lee, the Asia America Symphony with Karen Han on February 4, 2006, seeing "Evita" at the Welk Resort Theatre in Escondido, and the grand opening of the East West Bank's Torrance Branch featuring "A Brush with History."

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:12 p.m., Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, March 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Strehler seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Wang so ordered.

Approved as Submitted March 20, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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